

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 were previously pending in this patent application. Claims 1-20 stand rejected. Herein, Claims 2, 9, 19, and 20 have been canceled. Claims 1, 3, 8, 10, and 18 have been amended. Figure 3 supports the amendments to the Claims. Accordingly, after this Amendment and Response After Final Action, Claims 1, 3-8, and 10-18 remain pending in this patent application. Further examination and reconsideration in view of the claims, remarks, and arguments set forth below is respectfully requested.

SPECIFICATION

The Final Office Action states that the title of the invention is not descriptive. A new title is required that is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed. Herein, the title has been amended again.

35 U.S.C. Sections 112, First Paragraph and Second Paragraph, Rejections

Independent Claims 1, 8, and 18 have been amended to remove the limitation that caused the rejections under 35 U.S.C. Sections 112, First Paragraph and Second Paragraph. Therefore, these rejections are moot.

35 U.S.C. Section 103(a) Rejections

Claims 1-4, 8-11, and 15-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Musk, U.S. Patent No. 5,577,146 (hereafter Musk). These rejections are respectfully traversed. Claims 2, 9, 19, and 20 have been canceled.

Independent Claim 1 recites:

An optical fiber receptacle adaptor comprising:

a single-part housing comprising a receptacle end having an opening and a plug receiving end, the receptacle end adapted for securing to an optical fiber receptacle and for inserting therein and receiving an optical ferrule receiving portion of the optical fiber receptacle, and the plug receiving end adapted for inserting therein and receiving an optical ferrule and for urging the optical ferrule into communication with the optical ferrule receiving portion of the optical fiber receptacle; and a locking module for securing the single-part housing to the optical fiber receptacle, wherein the locking module ***comprises a top surface including a protrusion opening for accommodating a vertical protrusion of the optical fiber receptacle.*** (emphasis added)

It is respectfully asserted that Musk does not teach, suggest, or motivate the present invention as recited in Independent Claim 1. In particular, Independent Claim 1 recites the limitation, "a locking module for securing the single-part housing to the optical fiber receptacle, wherein the locking module ***comprises a top surface including a protrusion opening for accommodating a vertical protrusion of the optical fiber receptacle,***" (emphasis added). On page 9 of the Final Office Action, element (5) of Musk is identified as the "optical fiber receptacle" while elements (31a) and (31b) are identified as the "locking module". However, Figures 4a, 4b, 5, and 6 of Musk show the locking module (elements (31a) and (31b)) as having a top surface, but the top surface does not have a protrusion opening, as in the invention of Independent Claim 1. Moreover, Figures 4a, 4b, 5, and 6 of Musk fail to disclose a vertical protrusion of the optical fiber receptacle (5) that would be accommodated by the protrusion opening, as in the invention of Independent Claim 1.

As described above, Musk does not teach, suggest, or motivate the cited claim limitations of Independent Claim 1. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that Independent Claim 1 is patentable over Musk and is in condition for allowance.

Dependent Claims 3-4 are dependent on allowable Independent Claim 1, which is allowable over Musk. Hence, it is respectfully submitted that Dependent Claims 3-4 are patentable over Musk for the reasons discussed above. Claim 2 has been canceled.

With respect to Independent Claims 8 and 18, it is respectfully submitted that Independent Claims 8 and 18 recite similar limitations as in Independent Claim 1. In particular, the Independent Claim 8 recites the limitation, “a locking module for securing the single-part housing to the optical fiber receptacle, wherein the locking module comprises ***a top surface including a protrusion opening for accommodating a vertical protrusion of the optical fiber receptacle,***” (emphasis added). Further, the Independent Claim 18 recites the limitation, “securing the optical fiber receptacle to the receptacle end by attaching a locking module to the receptacle end, wherein the locking module ***comprises a top surface including a protrusion opening for accommodating a vertical protrusion of the optical fiber receptacle,***” (emphasis added). As described above, Musk does not teach, suggest, or motivate the cited claim limitations of Independent Claims 8 and 18. Therefore, Independent Claims 8 and 18 are patentable over Musk and are in condition for allowance for reasons discussed in connection with Independent Claim 1.

Dependent Claims 10-11 and 15-17 are dependent on allowable Independent Claim 8, which is allowable over Musk. Hence, it is respectfully submitted that Dependent Claims 10-11 and 15-17 are patentable over Musk for the reasons discussed above. Dependent Claims 9, 19, and 20 have been canceled.

Claims 5-7 and 12-14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Musk, U.S. Patent No. 5,577,146 (hereafter Musk). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Dependent Claims 5-7 and Dependent Claim 12-14 are dependent on allowable Independent Claims 1 and 8 respectively, which are allowable over Musk. Hence, it is respectfully submitted that Dependent Claims 5-7 and 12-14 are patentable over Musk for the reasons discussed above.

CONCLUSION

It is respectfully submitted that the above claims, arguments and remarks overcome all rejections and objections. All remaining claims (Claims 1, 3-8, and 10-18) are neither anticipated nor obvious in view of the cited references. For at least the above-presented reasons, it is respectfully submitted that all remaining claims (Claims 1, 3-8, and 10-18) are in condition for allowance.

The Examiner is urged to contact Applicant's undersigned representative if the Examiner believes such action would expedite resolution of the present Application.

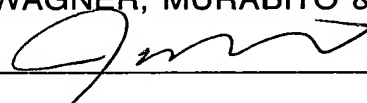
Please charge any additional fees or apply any credits to our PTO deposit account number: 23-0085.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: _____

12/1/05



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